

PHONE SURVEY QUESTIONS FOR
IDAHO SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH CHARTER SCHOOLS

OBJECTIVE: Assess impact of charter schools on their sponsoring school districts and/or on school districts in general

OVERARCHING QUESTIONS:

Are charter schools having an impact on public school districts in Idaho?

What kinds of impacts are occurring? What is the level of intensity of the impact?

What are districts doing differently now that charters are in the picture (that they might not have done were it not for charters)?

If the effect of charter laws is to cause innovation, through what mechanisms does this occur?
What factors spur response?

INTERVIEW PROTOCOL: Phone superintendents or liaisons at a designated time (prearranged). After introductions and a brief explanation of the project, interview using the questions that follow. Record all answers in the database. Some responses will be selected from an array, e.g., "somewhat" or "not at all," and a few are open-ended. *Names will be held in confidence in connection to any responses that are given.*

Questions will cover two areas: the impact of charter on the greater system and the effects of charters on your district directly.

1. To what extent do you see charters, in general, as "laboratories" for innovation, as is part of the intent of Idaho charter school legislation?

Very innovative-----Somewhat innovative-----Not at all innovative

2. Have any of your schools made modifications to curriculum or to course offerings based on what the charter school(s) is/are doing? Have any changes been philosophical, structural or financial? What are the mechanisms for change?

Yes-----No-----Don't know

Comments: _____

3. Have you made any change in your public relations/marketing as a result of having a charter school in your district?

Yes-----No-----Don't know

Comments: _____

4. On a related note, have schools in your district analyzed how they give their parents a voice?

Yes-----No-----Don't know

Comments:_____

5. Assess the level of impact that charters are having on your school district on the following items:

- A. loss of students

Severe—Moderate—Mild—None

- B. loss of financing

Severe—Moderate—Mild—None

- C. loss of particular kind of student to niche-focused school

Severe—Moderate—Mild—None

- D. increasing challenges predicting enrollment

Severe—Moderate—Mild—None

- E. causing redistribution of central office administrators' time

Severe—Moderate—Mild—None

- F. affecting staff morale

Severe—Moderate—Mild—None

- G. changes in community as a result?

Severe—Moderate—Mild—None

- H. causing divisiveness in your community?

Severe—Moderate—Mild—None

6. If your school district was [smaller/larger], would you see a [greater/lesser] impact?

7. How much do you think that charters

- A. attract higher performing students and more engaged parents

Definitely—Somewhat—Not at all

- B. serve as "dumping grounds" for students that conventional public schools do not want to serve

Definitely—Somewhat—Not at all

C. lead to socioeconomic segregation of students?

Definitely—Somewhat—Not at all

D. lead to racial segregation of students?

Definitely—Somewhat—Not at all

8. Do you believe that creating a competitive environment leads to school improvement?

Definitely—Somewhat—Not at all

9. To what extent do you believe that the views of other superintendents in charter districts are similar to your own?

Very similar—Somewhat similar—Not very similar—Don't know

10. Do you see an increase in the number of charter schools in your district?

Yes—Possibly--No

11. Has answering these questions caused you to reconsider your perspectives on possible impacts of charters? Why?

Yes—No

Comments: _____